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Virtual Meeting

**GEF-8 Integrated Programs  
Second Progress Report  
(Programs Approved in February and June 2024)**

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## I. Introduction

1. The *GEF-8 Programming Directions*<sup>1</sup> include eleven (11) Integrated Programs<sup>2</sup> (IPs) focused on tackling drivers of environmental degradation and advancing systems transformation through the integrated approach. The IPs cover the full spectrum of the GEF mandate as financial mechanism of major multilateral environmental agreements. They are also integral to the GEF-8 Theory of Change for achievement of a healthy, productive, and resilient environment which underpins the well-being of human societies. Furthermore, the scope and breadth of issues covered will specifically address the interest and needs of LDCs and SIDS, and strengthen their role in safeguarding the planet.

2. The process for rolling out the IPs started in June 2022 with a *Guidance Note*<sup>3</sup> for countries and GEF Agencies, which included detailed information on how the IPs will be operationalized to maximize their potential for achieving the outcomes established in the GEF-8 Programming Directions. It described how the focal areas will be programmed for the IPs based on indicative focal area amounts in the GEF-8 financial scenario; outlined the eligibility criteria for country participation based on the Programming Directions document; and described operational aspects related to selection of Lead Agencies and countries, including indicative timeline for roll-out of the programs.

3. Building on this guidance and following the selection of Lead Agencies each of the IPs at the Council meetings in November 2022 and June 2023,<sup>4</sup> the GEF Secretariat initiated a process for countries to express their interest in participation in the programs. A first Call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for countries was launched on January 16, 2023, resulting in 210 EOIs submitted by countries. Out of these, 148 proposals were recommended were selected for inclusion in an IP. A first cohort of six (6) IPs were included as Program Framework Documents (PFDs) in the Work Program for the GEF Trust Fund,<sup>5</sup> based on the country prescription rate, the availability of resources, and the timeliness with respect to MEA or other relevant global fora.

4. A second call for EOI by countries was launched on 24 July, 2023. This resulted in 44 EOIs from countries, of which 39 were included in the IPs that were not yet fully programmed. Following this second and last call for EOIs, another four (4) IPs as well as two Addenda were

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<sup>1</sup> *GEF-8 Programming Directions* - [GEF/R.08/29/Rev.01](#).

<sup>2</sup> The 11 GEF-8 IPs are: 1) Food Systems, 2) Ecosystem Restoration, 3) Sustainable Cities, 4) Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes, 5) Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution, 6) Blue and Green Islands, 7) Clean and Healthy Ocean, 8) Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development, 9) Net-Zero Nature-positive Accelerator, 10) Wildlife Conservation for Development, and 11) Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

<sup>3</sup> *Guidance Note for Countries and GEF Agencies on participation in the GEF-8 Integrated Programs* - [GEF/C.62/Inf.13](#)

<sup>4</sup> See *Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs* - [GEF/C.63/07](#) and Annex B in the *June 2023 GEFTF Work Program* - [GEF/C.64/04/Rev.01](#).

<sup>5</sup> These 6 IPs were: 1) Ecosystem Restoration, 2) Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes, 3) Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution, 4) Blue and Green Islands, 5) Net-Zero Nature-positive Accelerator, and 6) Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains. See *Report on Assessment of Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from Countries to Participate in the Integrated Programs* - [GEF/C.64/Inf.11](#)

included in the February 2023 Work Program that was approved by the GEF Council.<sup>6</sup> Due to the limitation of resources in the GEF Trust Fund, the Sustainable Cities IP was instead included in the June 2024 Council meeting.

5. This report provides an update on the design and delivery process for the IPs approved by the GEF Council meetings in February and June 2024, including their child projects which are in the process of being fully developed and submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement. In addition, the report includes highlights of important developments and emerging issues of relevant to each of the programs, and how they are being considered for engagement through the coordination platform child projects.

## **II. Overview of the IPs approved in February and June 2024**

6. In addition to the six (6) IPs already approved by the GEF Council in June 2023, another five (5) IPs and two (2) Addenda were included in the February and June 2024 GEF TF Work Programs. They include the following:

- The *Food Systems IP (with 32 countries)*, focused on transforming global food systems from farm to table, so that they are sustainable, regenerative, nature-positive, resilient, inclusive, and pollution-free. The IP will address the underlying drivers of unsustainability along the whole length of the food system by applying holistic and integrated approach to transform and strengthen value chains, business models, incentive and finance frameworks, and policy and institutional conditions, all of which will support the application of models of integrated and sustainable landscape and farm management on the ground.
- The *Clean and Healthy Ocean IP (with 14 countries)*, which focuses on tackling drivers of excessive nutrient loads (i.e. nitrogen, phosphorous, organic waste) entering coastal marine environments. Agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors are major sources of this excess nutrient pollution, which creates nutrient over-enrichment that causes eutrophication, triggering harmful algal blooms and low levels of oxygen, or hypoxia, leading to declining coastal water quality and associated health impacts; damage to biodiversity, including seagrasses and coral reefs; fish kills; and loss of ecosystem services.

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<sup>6</sup> These 4 IPs and Addenda were: 1) Food Systems, 2) Clean and Healthy Ocean, 3) Wildlife Conservation for Development, 4) Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development, and 5) Addenda for the Amazon and Guinean Forests Biomes under the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP. See *Report on Assessment of Second Call for Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from Countries to Participate in the Integrated Programs-* [GEF/C.66/Inf.15](#)

- The *Wildlife Conservation for Development IP (with 15 countries)* is designed to conserve wildlife and landscapes by transforming the drivers of species loss and ensuring that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets. Integration of wildlife conservation across landscapes and sectors, between countries and regions, and over supply chains is key to safeguarding healthy, stable or increased populations of threatened wildlife; reducing threat from illegal, unsustainable and high zoonotic risk wildlife use and trade; enhancing community benefits to ensure societal buy-in for wildlife conservation.
- The *Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP (with 5 countries)*, which focuses on supporting countries to advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure that safeguards and enhances key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. The IP will enhance biodiversity and mitigate and/or eliminate the potential adverse effects associated with the development of transportation infrastructure by focusing on upstream measures (policies and regulations, planning frameworks, capacity, etc.) that will trigger a system change downstream in how infrastructure is built, and natural infrastructure maintained.
- The *Sustainable Cities IP (with 20 countries)*, which aims to catalyze urban system transformation by supporting cities and local governments to scale up their political commitment, undertake integrated urban planning, implement policies, and invest in nature-positive, climate-resilient, and carbon-neutral urban development. The IP will generate impact at the local, national, and global levels and demonstrate thought-leadership in urban sustainability, fostering behavior, business models, and institutional changes through integrated planning, innovative financing mechanisms, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and multistakeholder engagements.
- The *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP (with 28 countries, of which 3 were added in February 2024)*, which addresses the growing urgency to safeguard intact forest landscapes that are irreplaceable in terms of biodiversity, soak up to a third of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (84% coming from old and primary forests), and are critical for other ecosystem services (water), and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. In June 2023, Council approved five PFDs presented under this IP, with a total of 25 countries that together account for an estimated 87% of the existing tropical forest biomes: Amazon, Congo, Meso-America, Indo-Malay, and Guinean Forests of West Africa. The February 2024 work program included PFD addenda for the Amazon and Guinean Forests of West Africa programs, to add three (3) countries selected during the second call for EOIs.

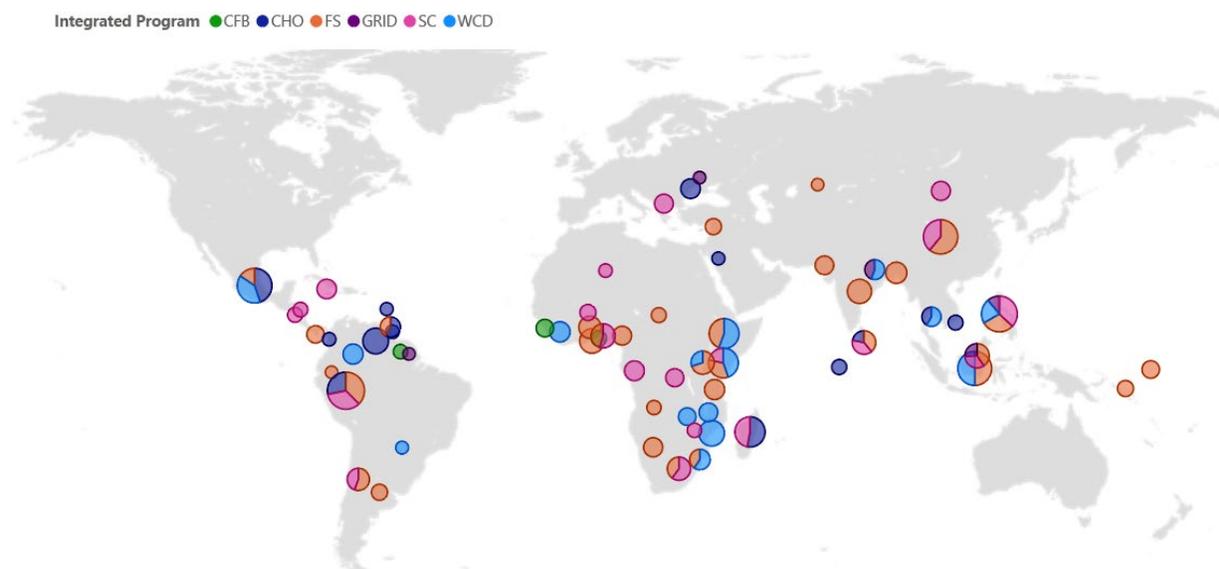
7. The five IPs and two Addenda included in February and June 2024 Work Programs included a total of 89 discrete country child projects from 64 countries across all GEF regions. The full list of countries participating in each Integrated Program can be found in Annex 1. With these IP approved, the entire GEF-8 IP portfolio has now been programmed.

**Table 1 Number of countries by Integrated Program**

Integrated Program	Number of countries
<b>Food Systems</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Clean and Healthy Ocean</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Wildlife Conservation for Development</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sustainable Cities</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes (Addenda)</b>	<b>3</b>
Amazon	1
Guinean Forests of West Africa	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89 (64 unique)</b>

8. As shown in Figure 1, all GEF recipient country regions are represented in these programs. In addition to creating opportunities for amplifying the influence of GEF investments beyond countries with child projects, this reinforces the need for coordination of the program design process across scales. As a result, the design phase of each program follows an iterative process that connects country-level efforts with the coordination platform to ensure adequate consideration of the evolving context. The Lead Agency for each IP plays a key role in coordinating and facilitating the process to ensure coherence and consistency across the portfolio, including alignment of top-down expectations and bottom-up priorities of countries toward advancing transformative change.

**Figure 1 Global Distribution of Countries participating in the IPs approved in February and June 2024**



*CFB: Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes, CHO: Clean and Healthy Ocean, FS: Food Systems, GRID: Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development, SC: Sustainable Cities, WCD: Wildlife Conservation for Development.*

9. Potential global environmental benefits from the five programs and two addenda covered close to all GEF-8 core indicator targets, with significant contributions to protecting and sustainably managing terrestrial protected areas, using improved practices in landscapes for biodiversity benefits, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Overall, the proposed integrated approach to tackling drivers and associated global environmental benefits from IPs address many of the 23 Targets of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The IPs contributing to the area-based core indicator targets and alignment of policies supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use will produce biodiversity outcomes at scale which will all contribute to the achievement of Target 11 (Restore and enhance ecosystem function). The actual extent of contributions to GEF-8 Core Indicator and KMGBF targets will be determined after all the child projects under the IPs are fully developed.

10. The total GEF financing approved for the five IPs and two addenda amount to USD 755.85 million (Table 2). This amount leverages an additional USD 5.6 billion in co-financing from diverse sources, including national governments, development partners, and other international financing organizations. The GEF financing amounts to 62.5 percent of total for the February 2024 GEFTF work program and 33.4 percent of the June 2025 GEFTF work program. Table 2 shows the breakdown of financing amounts by IP.

**Table 2 Financing for Integrated Programs approved in February and June 2024**

<b>Integrated Program</b>	<b>Financing Amount (incl. fees)</b>
<b>Food Systems</b>	<b>281,505,979</b>
<b>Wildlife Conservation for Development</b>	<b>150,313,306</b>
<b>Clean and Healthy Ocean</b>	<b>112,366,647</b>
<b>Greening Transportation for Infrastructure Development</b>	<b>26,835,416</b>
<b>Sustainable Cities</b>	<b>169,483,321</b>
<b>The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes</b>	<b>15,349,089</b>
Amazon	3,999,996
Guinean Forest	11,349,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>755,853,758</b>

### **III. Program Design and Delivery**

11. Following approval of the PFDs in February and June 2024, GEF Agencies have been fully engaged with supporting the design and delivery of child projects. The next section highlights progress made for each program, including the evolving context associated with each of the IP priorities.

## **A. Food Systems Integrated Program**

### ***Program Summary***

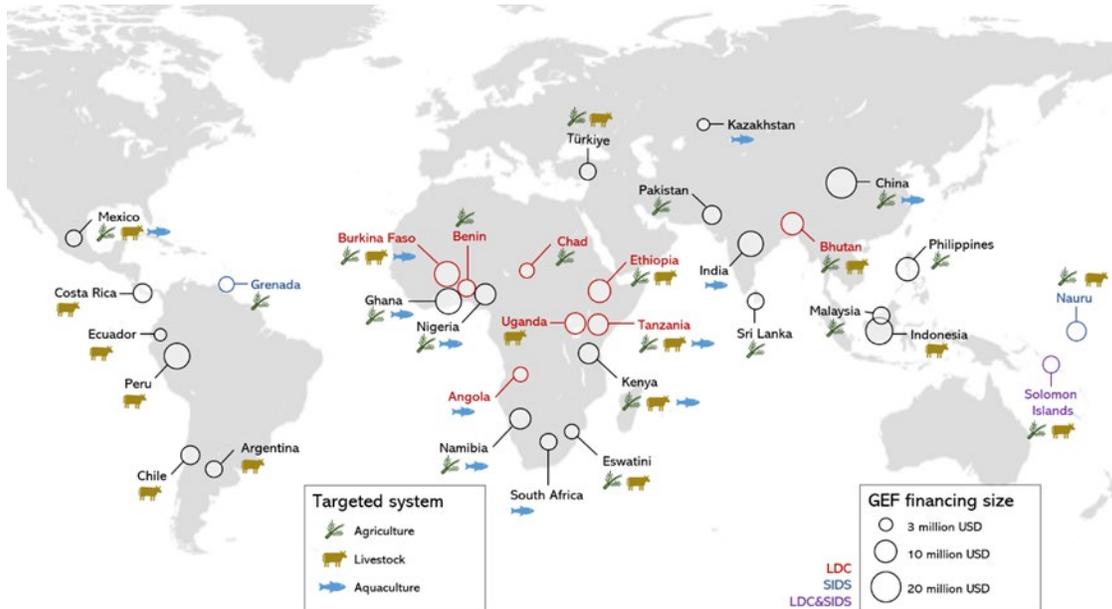
12. Agri-food systems are essential for the health, food security and nutrition, and economic well-being of people around the globe. While there are many forms of agriculture that support healthy people and a healthy planet, food systems globally are also a key contributor to environmental degradation. Today's food systems generate \$12 trillion in hidden social, economic and environmental costs. Agriculture occupies about 38% of the world's total land area, and unsustainable agricultural expansion has resulted in significant loss of forests and biodiversity, land and soil degradation, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is responsible for up to 90% of global deforestation, and drivers linked to food production cause 70% of terrestrial and 50% of freshwater biodiversity loss. Further, a rising global population and changes in consumption patterns towards higher protein diets will result in more carbon-intensive agriculture that will further strain global land-use systems. With less than a decade remaining to achieve the SDGs (the "2030 Agenda") and amidst mounting social, political, health, and ecological crises, the global community faces a critical juncture to transform food systems so that they support healthy diets in sustainable, resilient, just, and equitable ways.

13. The GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Program (FS-IP) will meet this challenge by focusing on transforming global food systems from farm to table, so that they are sustainable, regenerative, nature positive, resilient, inclusive and pollution-free. The FS-IP will address the underlying drivers of unsustainability along the whole length of the food system by applying holistic and integrated approach to transform and strengthen value chains, business models, incentive and finance frameworks, and policy and institutional conditions, all of which will support the application of models of integrated and sustainable landscape and farm management on the ground.

14. The FS-IP will achieve its goal through four interrelated components, each aligning with pathways outlined in the Theory of Change. These include Strengthening the enabling environment to catalyze FS transformation at global, regional and national levels (P1); Improved and increased financing deployed in support of food system transformation (P2); Transforming the management of landscapes, farming systems and value chains (P3); Leveraging and transforming knowledge systems (P4).

15. The FS-IP will be delivered through 32 country "child" projects, spanning Latin America, Africa, the Europe and Central Asia region, Asia and Oceania, and including nine Least Developed Countries and one Small Island Developing State (see figure 2). Country projects cover six crops/commodities (maize, rice, wheat, soy, oil palm and cocoa) as well as livestock and aquaculture that present the greatest opportunities for generating global environmental benefits. Opportunities have been identified for grouping these into regional sector-based project groupings ("Communities of Practice" or CoPs) with the potential to facilitate inter-project learning and generate a critical mass of influence on global policies and value chains, and a critical mass of demand for inputs and services. The CoPs will be implemented in collaboration with the GEF-7 Food Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) program.

**Figure 2. Map of countries participating in the Food Systems IP**



16. The effectiveness of the country projects, and their collective impacts in transforming the policies, structures and attitudes driving food systems globally, will be maximized through the support of the FS-IP Global Coordination Project (GCP). The GCP will serve to crowd in and channel global actors and resources in support of the country projects; and to collate, manage and communicate the models and knowledge generated in the participating countries and communities of practice, feeding them into regional, global and thematic policy fora and the agendas of public and private actors. As a result, the impacts of the FS-IP will be greater than the sum of its parts, setting in motion processes of “scaling out” of impacts far beyond the target geographies of the child projects.

17. The program seeks to catalyze profound changes in global food systems management and impact, extending its reach far beyond the limited geographic areas of individual country projects. This will be achieved by closely engaging with global policy fora, institutions, finance frameworks and networks of private sector and civil society actors; and by establishing communities of practice, formed by thematic groupings of child projects including those from GEF-7 FOLUR Impact Program, which cumulatively will generate a critical mass of evidence and policy influence capable of transforming global thinking, policies and actions on food systems. To ensure consistent and coordinated approaches, and the sharing of lessons and knowledge, the FS-IP will maintain close connections with other GEF- supported projects addressing common challenges. These include Blue and Green Islands, Critical Forest Biomes, Ecosystem Restoration, Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator and Sustainable Cities Integrated Programs, as well as stand-alone GEF projects.

18. The FS IP is expected to restore 870,434 hectares of degraded agricultural lands, forest and forest land, natural grass and woodlands, wetlands; and will improve the management practices of over 13,844,336 hectares of lands through improved management to benefit

biodiversity (8,142,528 ha), sustainable land management in production systems (5,4417,194 ha), and HCV forest loss avoided (284,644 ha); and marine protected areas under improved management (4,220 ha). The program will mitigate more than 174 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e over the 20-year period, 220 metric tons of highly hazardous pesticides eliminated. Furthermore, the project will directly benefit 3,356,681 people (of which 49.1% are females) providing direct livelihood benefits.

### ***Updates on Context of the Integrated Program***

19. The inaugural United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) on September 2021, marked a new era of sustainable food production and consumption, resulting in 117 national pathways for food systems transformation by 2030. In 2022, the UNFSS catalyzed the formation of 28 thematic coalitions to address specific food systems issues, and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub was established to support national progress on the SDGs. The same year, COP15 adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), providing a clear framework for FS-IP actions in support of global biodiversity. COP27 launched the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation initiative, aiming to improve climate finance contributions to transform agriculture and food systems by 2030. The UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment further reviewed progress and identified priorities to close the implementation gap. Finally, at COP28, world leaders signed the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, committing to integrate agriculture and food systems into climate action by 2025, linking climate change with food systems to achieve SDGs related to hunger, clean water, climate action, and biodiversity.

20. Looking ahead, the FS-IP will leverage key opportunities to align with the global policy environment and maximize its influence. The FSIP will be highlighted during the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024, during the side event titled "Financing the Agrifood System Transformation," which aims to scale up investments to enhance resilience, ensure food security, reduce emissions, and protect the environment. COP29 is crucial for the FSIP as it presents a vital opportunity to align global financial commitments with climate action goals, emphasizing the importance of integrated approaches in achieving sustainable development in the face of climate challenges. The event will address key questions regarding the barriers to scaling capital flow toward sustainable practices, directing financial resources to priority interventions, and the roles of various stakeholders including governments, international climate finance mechanisms, and the private sector, in accelerating the transition.

21. Finally, the official launch of the FSIP is scheduled to take place during the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP16 on December 5, 2024, as part of the AgriFood Systems Day. This key event will introduce FSIP and its new approaches to food systems transformation, focusing on moving from "not harm" to actively "doing good." The session will emphasize governance and policy processes, inclusive and gender-responsive practices, catalytic financing and policy options, cross-country and multi-stakeholder collaboration, and private sector involvement. Global leaders, GEF, FAO, IFAD experts, regional representatives, and voices

from Indigenous communities and youth organizations will participate, sharing insights to promote sustainable, regenerative, inclusive, and pollution-free food systems.

### ***Summary and Status of Child Projects***

22. The Global Coordination Project (GCP) Project Document, submitted to the GEF Secretariat in August 2024 after global consultations in October 2023 and March 2024, is led by FAO and IFAD in partnership with the World Bank (WB), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The GCP will deliver value through four complementary and interrelated hubs: (1) Policy and Governance, which will place food systems sustainability issues on the agenda of regional and global policy fora, stimulate collaborative and inclusive action, and enable national actors to engage effectively in policy debates and governance enhancements; (2) Private Sector Engagement and Investments, aimed at increasing public and private investment, improving access to financial services, and enhancing supply/demand connectivity for sustainable products; (3) Innovation and Technical Support for Landscape Level Interventions, providing participating countries with the necessary guidance, tools, and capacity development to achieve and accelerate food systems transformation at the farm, landscape, and value chain levels; and (4) Management Support, Knowledge Management (KM), and Monitoring and Evaluation, ensuring effective generation and management of knowledge and innovations, and providing the support needed for effective project management, KM, M&E, and coordination to maximize program impact.

23. While the GCP itself will not contribute directly to the GEF core indicator targets that are set and met at the country project level, its role in providing strategic and technical support to countries is critical for advancing transformative change. This includes support for managing the programmatic M&E and knowledge management systems, facilitating access to technical expertise, promoting inter-project clustering of actions, and fostering synergies and exchanges with other Integrated Programs (IPs).

24. All 32 country child projects have made progress in preparing the CEO Endorsement Request packages (see Annex 2). National PPG inception meetings were held in nearly all participating countries and national validation meetings are planned from mid-November 2024 through February 2025. All child projects are on track to submit CEO Endorsement Request packages between December 2024 and February 2025.

25. Before Council approval, the Lead Agencies through the GCP team, initiated groundwork and consultations to leverage several initiatives and partnerships to increase the capacity of the GCP to service the FS-IP portfolio and deliver its outcomes, setting in motion processes of “scaling out” of impacts far beyond the target geographies of the child projects:

26. The GCP design phase was initiated with a Project Design Workshop at IFAD Headquarters in Rome in October 2023. This workshop gathered essential inputs for formulating the GCP Project Document, started a discussion on defining the respective roles of FAO, IFAD, and partner agencies, and gathered valuable inputs and lessons from the previous GEF Integrated Programs.

Four key functions of the GCP were established: coordination with Child Projects (CP) for timely delivery, principles for monitoring and reporting systems transformation, identification of Global Environmental Benefits beyond core indicator targets, and linking Integrated Program platforms for interoperability.

27. The Project Design Workshop was followed by country orientation sessions in November 2023, divided into three regions: Latin America, Asia, and Africa. These sessions aimed to guide national teams in aligning their projects with the FSIP framework and objectives by introducing country-specific methodologies, strategic priorities, and operational guidelines. They provided a platform for countries to clarify roles, establish timelines, and discuss technical and logistical support needs for implementation. Additionally, the orientation sessions highlighted regional nuances, allowing for tailored approaches that address local conditions and challenges. An online survey was conducted in February 2024 to assess the needs of the country project teams following these sessions.

28. To support child projects design, the GCP team has initiated a series of activities to kickstart the PPG process right after the FS IP was approved by the 66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council:

29. In March 2024, a Project Document Validation Workshop was held with key partners, including the WB, TNC, WBCSD, and UNDP. The objective of the two-day meeting was to confirm arrangements for the participation of partner institutions in the GCP and ensure their full and effective engagement in its formulation and implementation. Moreover, partners presented their proposed contributions and support for the GCP, which will be carefully prioritized considering the potential added value of each partner and the specific needs of individual countries.

30. From March to October 2024, GCP prepared and disseminated a series of 7 Briefing Papers to country projects to enable programmatic alignment between the GCP and country projects. Topics covered included applying consistent logic across FSIP and its country projects, core indicators, GBF indicators, relations with GCP, addressing nutrition in FSIP, Gender and a briefing paper on agri-tech.

31. A second round of regional consultations was held in July 2024 with the goals of reviewing guidance provided, proposing further briefing papers, clarifying GCP roles and support, establishing governance and representation mechanisms, and setting responsibilities and timelines for GCP support moving forward.

32. As part of the programmatic alignment and capacity building, representatives from eight countries across Asia and Africa met in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 13 September 2024 to discuss sustainable rice production and FSIP project development. The event facilitated knowledge exchange among rice producers and experts from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Tanzania, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. They reaffirmed their commitment to transforming their national rice production systems as part of their FSIP child projects. Discussions focused on overcoming local challenges, leveraging opportunities through partnerships, and enhancing project scalability and impact. This event was

crucial for achieving a common understanding and direction for the GEF-supported FSIP while fostering connections between the FSIP Global Coordination Project (GCP) and country projects. Participants shared how GCP can better address their needs and align with ongoing initiatives.

33. In September and October 2024, GCP organized two comprehensive technical webinars focused on gender and agri-tech for country projects. The gender sessions provided participants with insights from the GEF, IFAD and FAO regarding requirements and expectations while offering a deeper understanding of the FSIP's gender transformative ambitions and the tools and support available to achieve them. The Agri-tech webinar outlined a roadmap for both early-stage and advanced-stage agri-tech ecosystems, which can be utilized by FSIP child projects to facilitate the adoption and dissemination of agri-tech in specific value chains across various countries.

34. The FSIP was featured at the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) in September 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda, emphasizing the need for an integrated approach to transform Africa's food systems, boost regenerative agriculture, reduce livestock impacts, and expand sustainable aquaculture.

35. The GCP team will organize additional CoP meetings in 2025: January (Turkey, maize and wheat), June (Guatemala, livestock), and tentatively April/May (aquaculture). A stakeholder meeting on financing for the FSIP will be held in Rome in September 2025, in coordination with the Standing Committee of Finance of the UNFCCC.

## **B. Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program**

### ***Program Summary***

36. The Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program (WCD IP) is designed to facilitate national, transboundary, and global interventions aimed at transforming systems that drive wildlife loss. WCD-IP builds upon the foundation established during the GEF-6 and GEF-7 phases of the Global Wildlife Program (GWP).

37. Fifteen countries (Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia) and a global coordination project are included in the PFD approved by the GEF Council in February 2024 with US\$135 million in GEF financing and US\$892 million in expected co-financing. Seven GEF Agencies support countries under this program, namely CI, ADB, IUCN, WWF-US, UNEP, UNDP, and World Bank.

38. This IP aims to conserve wildlife and landscapes to maximize global environmental benefits and ensure that countries and communities benefit from these natural assets. It plans to achieve this through four components: supporting the coexistence of people and wildlife across landscapes, addressing illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, promoting wildlife for prosperity, and fostering coordination and knowledge exchange for transformative impact.

39. Four long-term outcomes are anticipated: (1) healthy, stable, or increased populations of threatened wildlife; (2) reduced threat from illegal, unsustainable, and high zoonotic risk wildlife use and trade; (3) community benefits ensure societal buy-in for wildlife conservation; and (4) collaboration, capacity development, and partnerships ensure maximum effectiveness.

40. These outcomes are expected to contribute to global environmental benefits across biodiversity, land, and climate change areas while maximizing wildlife conservation's role in sustainable development. The program emphasizes addressing the underlying drivers of wildlife threats and expects to foster innovation and transformative change, while a global knowledge-sharing platform will support collaboration, replication, and scaling up.

41. The program expects to improve management or establish new terrestrial protected areas covering 19.57 million hectares across the 15 participating countries. Additionally, 30,740 hectares of degraded land are expected to undergo restoration in two countries, while 11 countries plan to enhance practices over 7.03 million hectares of landscapes outside protected areas. Activities in six countries are projected to mitigate 61.69 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. The program anticipates benefiting 1.07 million people (51% women), emphasizing human-wildlife conflict mitigation and diversified livelihood support, including nature-based tourism and capacity development activities. WCD IP is structured to contribute directly to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), with Targets 3, 4, and 5 being of central importance.

#### ***Updates on Context of the Integrated Program***

42. Since February 2024, several major international meetings have underscored the urgent need to address the alarming state of global biodiversity. In addition, three landmark reports have been published, providing sobering reminders of the ongoing wildlife crisis.

43. The average size of monitored wildlife populations over the past 50 years (1970-2020) has declined by 73%, as shown in the **2024 WWF Living Planet Report**. The report emphasized the urgent need for wildlife conservation by highlighting habitat loss, overexploitation, and climate change pressures on key species. The sharpest population declines were recorded in Latin America and the Caribbean (95% decline), Africa (76%), and Asia-Pacific (60%)— the three regions where this Integrated Program will continue to provide support throughout GEF-8.

44. Some progress in reducing the trafficking of elephants and rhinoceros has been noted in the **World Wildlife Crime Report 2024**, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Data reveals reduced poaching and illegal trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn over the past decade due to a combination of multifaceted interventions that addressed both the demand and supply sides, e.g., policy engagement, market restrictions, and law enforcement action. These interventions are part of the integrated approach the WCD IP will continue to support as it tackles these critical threats. The report also shows that wildlife trafficking remains a significant global threat, with seizures during 2015–2021 showing an illegal trade in 162 countries and territories impacting around 4,000 plant and animal species, including 3,250 listed in the CITES Appendices. Progress towards achieving SDG target 15.7 to end wildlife trafficking is

not on track. In 2024, UNODC populated this indicator for the first time, showing that between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of intercepted illegal wildlife trade increased, peaking during the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank Group, through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), supported the report and will continue to partner with countries participating in this Integrated Program to combat wildlife crime and strengthen criminal justice and law enforcement systems.

45. The ***State of the World's Migratory Species*** report, released at the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in February 2024, revealed that 44% of CMS-listed migratory species are in decline, with 22% facing extinction due to threats like overexploitation and habitat loss. COP14 saw the first-ever participation of the GEF CEO, who emphasized the need for cross-sectoral and institutional cooperation to maximize conservation impacts. At a GWP-hosted side session titled "Investing in Wildlife Conservation to Strengthen Livelihoods and Economies," the GEF CEO reaffirmed GEF's commitment to wildlife conservation and highlighted the importance of collaboration among biodiversity conventions. Under GEF-8, GWP will continue exploring synergies with conventions like CMS to support the conservation of migratory species and ecological connectivity.

46. In May 2024, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held its 26<sup>th</sup> session in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting focused on advancing the GBF implementation. Discussions centered on improving monitoring frameworks and enhancing technical cooperation, especially for developing nations—a key concern for this IP, which seeks to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to manage wildlife effectively and improve cross-sectoral collaboration.

47. Finally, **the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 16) was held in October 2024 in Cali, Colombia.** GWP organized several events to promote the program, foster collaboration, inspire action, and showcase innovative solutions aligned with global biodiversity conservation priorities. These events were organized with the [GEF Secretariat](#), [Multilateral Development Bank](#), [Nature Positive](#), and [Brazil](#) pavilions. GWP also supported the [30x30 Action Day](#) on October 29<sup>th</sup> in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework pavilion. Additional visibility for the program was provided through the [World Bank Group COP 16 page](#).

48. Together, these developments reinforce the importance of this program's integrated approach to achieving its objective and contributing to helping countries meet the ambitious targets set out in the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

### ***Summary and Status of Child Projects***

49. Throughout 2024, the World Bank, as the Lead Agency for this Integrated Program, continued to (1) design the global coordination child project and (2) support all 15 participating countries and seven GEF Agencies to develop national child projects aligned to the program.

50. **The development of the global coordination project is on track.** As part of the ongoing consultation process, in-person consultations were held with country representatives, GEF

Agencies, and partners who attended the GWP Annual Conference in Thailand. Several conference sessions were dedicated to familiarizing the stakeholders further with the new Integrated Program and seeking their input about the global coordination project design. In September, the GWP coordination team issued a survey on the national project technical priorities to identify and map the priority themes, activities, and needs of national projects and to understand any challenges and opportunities in engaging with the global coordination project. The insights and feedback gained from this survey will further guide the design of the global coordination project, with results discussed at the second virtual stakeholders' consultation meeting scheduled for November 2024.

51. The global coordination team has also actively engaged with other Integrated Programs, such as Amazon Sustainable Landscape, the Blue and Green Islands, and Ecosystem Restoration, to share insights and strengthen cross-program learning on knowledge management, communication, monitoring, and evaluation.

52. Key sections of the project document are being refined and finalized, while Annexes with detailed analyses and plans are in advanced stages of preparation, including gender equality, communication, branding, knowledge management, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring and evaluation. **The GEF CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by the deadline of February 9, 2025.**

53. **The Lead Agency provided a range of support for the national project design.** This included (1) successfully integrating and onboarding GEF-8 teams to the existing GWP knowledge platform from the outset, with teams invited to GWP events since mid-2023, the GWP Annual Conference, and to GWP quarterly regional coordination calls in March, June, and October 2024. GEF-8 teams have shown strong interest in learning from earlier projects and have been actively participating in all virtual and in-person events, showing the benefits of this integration and facilitating cross-GEF phase lessons and replication, (2) development of a detailed PPG guidebook compiling lessons from existing GWP projects and sharing best practices and resources across a range of technical topics to guide project development, (3) completion of a [legal and policy coherence](#) assessment based on the review of concept notes, (4) development of a [Guidance for National Project Alignment to the GWP GEF-8 M&E Framework](#), (5) convening virtual technical sessions on a range of topics, and (6) offering bilateral support via regular 'Ask-us-Anything' sessions, via email, and by presenting the program at national PPG inception workshops on request.

54. From May to October, the Lead Agency completed nine (9) technical seminars to guide project design in cooperation with expert partners and GWP advisors. These covered priority topics for the program, including social and behavior change (two sessions with 56 participants from 12 countries), one health and zoonotic risk spillover (two sessions with 30 participants from 13 countries), policy coherence, gender mainstreaming (24 participants from 10 countries), the global standard for building ranger capacity (39 participants from 7 countries), synergies with other biodiversity conventions (13 participants from 9 countries), and risk and safeguards session (53 participants from 13 countries).

55. Targeted assistance on behavior change, zoonotic risk spillover, and policy coherence was also offered to those countries that expressed interest in strengthening those elements of their national project design. The Wildlife Conservation Society and TRAFFIC were contracted to provide bilateral technical assistance on integrating these technical areas of work into project design, help child projects develop a 'roadmap' for related project activities, share available resources, and review draft project material. To date, nine countries are receiving support on Social and Behavior Change and three on One Health, with several more expressing interest in support over the next two months.

56. Dedicated support was also provided to a subset of countries with planned activities to combat wildlife trafficking. From May until November, the GWP coordination team convened targeted calls between the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partners and seven national project development teams to discuss illegal wildlife trade priorities and opportunities to fund the implementation of recommendations arising from the ICCWC Toolkit or Indicator Framework assessments.

57. From November to January, the global coordination team will carry out two rounds of targeted reviews of child projects, using the [checklist](#) specifically developed to ensure alignment of all projects to the overall program.

58. Most child projects (12 out of 15) are progressing well, and the GEF Agencies expect to submit the GEF CEO Endorsement requests by 9 February 2025 (See Annex 2 for the detailed status of each child project). A few countries have noted challenges and delays due to national elections and the resulting changes in government (Mexico and Indonesia), complexities and costs inherent in ensuring adequate consultations with communities across remote and dispersed territories (Colombia), and GEF Agency internal procedural issues (the Philippines). Despite these, most projects are on track, having completed a range of stakeholder consultations, field missions, data gathering, and designing detailed project activities.

59. **Projects in Nepal, Malawi, and Mozambique are experiencing delays.** In Nepal and Malawi, the responsible GEF Agencies are working with the respective countries to address these delays and still aim to submit the GEF CEO Endorsement Request by the deadline. However, it is possible that both countries will need to submit a notification of delayed submission. In Mozambique, UNDP is still in the process of recruiting the PPG team. Due to the delays in project preparation, the GEF OFP has notified the GEF Secretariat about the delayed submission, requesting a revised submission date in April 2025.

## **C. Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program**

### ***Program Summary***

60. The agriculture, industrial and municipal sectors are primarily responsible for excess nutrient loads (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorous, organic waste) entering coastal marine environments. This excess creates nutrient over-enrichment, which in turn causes eutrophication, triggering harmful algal blooms and low levels of oxygen, or hypoxia, leading to

declining coastal water quality and associated health impacts; damage to biodiversity, including seagrasses and coral reefs; fish kills; and loss of ecosystem services. Areas with very low oxygen are known as dead zones, where most marine life cannot survive. If trends continue, dead zones globally are expected to expand and rise. This expected increase may be reinforced by changed precipitation and runoff patterns driven by climate change.

61. Given the complexities and sheer size of the agricultural, industrial and municipal drivers — with each sector including its own broad set of public and private stakeholders, and with challenges not concentrated to a particular region or national context — a highly coordinated, integrated and innovative effort at scale and with speed is required to accelerate needed action to overcome three identified barriers to systematically addressing hypoxic zones across the planet: (1) current knowledge, monitoring and awareness of ocean hypoxia threats, causes, impacts and solutions is inadequate to motivate and mobilize urgently required collective action; (2) policy, regulation, strategic planning and investment ineffectively address nutrient pollution challenges and fail to incentivize innovative solutions and best management practices; and (3) limited access to innovation and best management options, knowledge and financing are resulting in agricultural, municipal and industrial practices that continually expand and increase rates of nitrogen, phosphorous and organic waste pollution impacting oceans.

62. The goal of the Clean and Healthy Ocean IP (CHO-IP) is to catalyze this effort. It will aim to curb coastal zone pollution from agriculture, industrial and municipal sources by facilitating and promoting policy and regulatory measures and infrastructure investments, combined with nature-based solutions. In doing so, the program will foster an enabling environment to advance countries' efforts toward sustainable blue economy goals. The IP will help prevent new marine hypoxic zones, halt further oxygen depletion in current hypoxic zones, and promote innovations to assist countries to restore hypoxia-degraded ecosystems.

63. The 14 national child projects were selected based on situation within or adjacent to high-risk Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), demonstrated country leadership to tackle marine hypoxia, and innovativeness and scalability of intervention. Each child project, though unique, will include a subset of common activities—such as science-based monitoring, reporting, information sharing and dialogue engagement, adapted to local contexts and targeting national priorities—to link it with regional and global platforms established via the Global Coordination Project (GCP), allowing that project to synchronize action, promote awareness, amplify investments through innovative financing, assist in crafting policies, demonstrate best management practices, and generate tracking and monitoring. The GCP will serve as the program lynchpin, facilitating outreach, engagement, knowledge management and coordination among IP stakeholders at global, regional (LME) and national levels. The intended reach of the GCP will extend far beyond the national child project countries to advance networks and help build a constituency and advocacy to address marine hypoxia challenges globally. Gender dimensions and youth engagement are crosscutting under the program and considered critical to mobilizing action.

### ***Updates on Context of the Integrated Program***

64. While the global dialogue on CHO-IP priorities of addressing eutrophication and hypoxia continue to be lower environmental priorities for the global community, significant progress was made to advance these issues in key international events. The efforts described below have enhanced the CHO-IP partnership and elevated the awareness of eutrophication and hypoxia in coastal and marine environments.

65. At the 2024 United Nations Ocean Decade Conference from 10-12 April 2024 in Barcelona, Spain, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and other CHO-IP partners presented the IP to science and policy makers to raise awareness of the IP's development and opportunities to enhance its impact. This included highlighting the work of the Global Ocean Oxygen Decade (GOOD), an endorsed program of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), led by the IOC-UNESCO expert group *Global Ocean Oxygen Network (GO<sub>2</sub>NE)*. Both GOOD and *GO<sub>2</sub>NE* are cornerstones in the implementation of the CHO-IP.

66. At the 9th Our Ocean Conference from 15-17 April 2024 in Athens, Greece, the CHO-IP was presented together with CHO-IP partner, the Global Water Partnership (GWP), to elevate the conversation on source to sea management approaches. Additionally, several countries participating in the CHO-IP attended and made further commitments during the conference plenary related to climate change, marine protected areas, sustainable blue economy and sustainable fisheries. The GEF also announced an Our Ocean funding commitment representing the CHO IP, BGI IP, and Circular Solutions to Plastics IP investments. The CHO-IP stands to support these and further self-designated, voluntary commitments made by states beyond the auspices of other international intergovernmental meetings.

67. At the annual Large Marine Ecosystems Consultation Meeting (LME23) from 3-5 June 2024, in Paris, France, CHO-IP partners presented to the marine community to better identify linkages with ongoing GEF and non-GEF funded projects in Large Marine Ecosystems. More recently, at the 10<sup>th</sup> GEF International Waters Conference (IWC10) from 23-26 September 2024 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, CHO-IP partners presented in the conference plenary about the role of integration in the program's design to leverage the impact of the GEF International Waters Focal Area.

68. Much of the efforts for ocean conservation, including the CHO-IP, note the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) in Nice, France in June 2025 as an important milestone. UNOC-3 will convene under the theme "Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the Ocean." Combating hypoxia and reducing eutrophication will be key in achieving the ambition set for SDG 14 and UNOC-3. CHO-IP partner, IOC-UNESCO, has a important role in co-leading two and contributing to six of the 10 background documents for the UNOC-3 Ocean Action Panels. This offers great opportunities for the IP to engage in the conference discourse on (a) increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health; (b) preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from

land-based activities; and (c) leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages. The GEF and many CHO-IP partners were also active in the June 2024 *Immersed in Change high-level event* in Costa Rica that was convened to serve as a preparatory meeting for UNOC-3.

### ***Summary and Status of Child Projects***

69. The PPG phase for the CHO-IP was kickstarted in February 2024—two weeks after the IP was approved by the 66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council—with a technical design workshop held at FAO in Rome. GCP Partners, the GEF Secretariat, and Implementing Agencies of the 14 national child projects participated in the meeting, which led to agreement on the main service lines and products of the GCP and confirmation of the programmatic approach.

The GCP is led by FAO and co-implemented by ADB, CAF and EBRD, in partnership with UNESCO-IOC and the GWP. The objective of the GCP is to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the CHO-IP in addressing land-based nutrient pollution and marine hypoxia through:

- Providing technical services, capacity and support to the 14 national child projects;
- Ensuring portfolio coordination and gender-sensitive programmatic monitoring;
- Raising awareness on marine hypoxia and source-to-sea interactions;
- Undertaking regional and global activities to strengthen the evidence base for decision-making, including fostering wider investment in solutions to nutrient pollution and marine hypoxia;
- Strategically communicating key program messages to global and regional audiences;
- Engaging stakeholders and building wider constituencies for action to address hypoxia;
- Promoting gender-transformative approaches to pollution reduction;
- Managing knowledge and encouraging learning; and
- Amplifying the results and impacts of the CHO-IP.



*Group Picture from the Technical Design Workshop (February 2024)*

70. The GCP design team facilitated multiple bilateral and group consultations with the national child project teams to assess capacity needs and support expectations. A comprehensive survey was also prepared and distributed to the CHO-IP portfolio between April and June 2024, which collected important insights on specific national issues and potential capacity needs. The consultations and survey helped shape the GCP Gender Action Plan, Communications Strategy, Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan, and Knowledge Management and Learning Approach, all of which will be further refined and validated during the GCP inception phase (anticipated in Q2/Q3 of 2025).

71. Three sets of webinars were convened in May, June and September 2024, considering time zones, to present progress and timeline of the GCP formulation, to assess emerging needs and requests from the national child projects, and to reinforce the need for common knowledge management and learning, programmatic reporting, communications, gender mainstreaming and stakeholder engagement approaches across child projects. Agreement was reaffirmed on the proposed programmatic approach to ensure portfolio coordination and synergy between GCP and national child project execution, which was encapsulated in a programmatic brief (issued to PPG teams in October 2024) to provide detailed guidance to ensure the programmatic linkages are fully established across the CHO-IP portfolio during the PPG phase.

72. Groundwork was done to leverage several initiatives and partnerships to increase the capacity of the GCP to service the CHO-IP portfolio and deliver its outcomes at regional and global levels. Regular and ad hoc exchanges were held with key partners and FAO teams to improve coordination, collect baseline information, seek feedback on the project's design, and gather lessons learned from other GEF programs and GEF IW:LEARN. Strategic partnerships were established with the UNEP International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) community through the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, to foster the uptake of measures for sustainable nitrogen management; and with UNIDO to tie in the industrial perspective. FAO

engaged relevant network partners and initiatives, including the International Fertilizer Association (IFA); the European Biostimulants Industry Council (EBIC) as a member of IFA; the LEAP Partnership to assess nutrient flows, associated environment impacts and solutions in the livestock sector; the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) to assess GHG emissions and mitigation potential in the livestock sector; and FAOSTAT and AQUASTAT, among others to potentially play a role in IP implementation. Other organizations, including the private sector and non-state actors, and initiatives will be further mapped and engaged during the GCP inception phase.

73. The GCP CEO Endorsement Request package was submitted to the GEF Secretariat in November 2024. The 14 national child projects have made progress in preparing the CEO Endorsement Request packages (see Annex 2). Some child projects experienced delays in beginning their PPG phases; however, national PPG inception meetings were held in nearly all participating countries (Jordan planned for November 2024) and national validation meetings are planned from mid-November 2024 through February 2025. All national child projects are on track to submit CEO Endorsement Request packages between December 2024 and February 2025.

#### **D. Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development Integrated Program**

##### ***Program Summary***

74. Transportation infrastructure, including roads, rail, canals, and ports, plays a critical role in connecting people to goods and services. Yet, it is also one of the most impactful drivers of habitat and biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and fragmentation worldwide, opening access for illegal logging and hunting, and disrupting wildlife migration pathways. While transportation infrastructure can cause environmental degradation, environmental degradation can also put the infrastructure itself at risk. Hazards such as erosion, flooding, and landslides due to degraded and poorly managed natural landscapes—in combination with worsening climate extremes—all affect the durability and resilience of transportation infrastructure.

75. The objective of the Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development Integrated Program (GRID IP) is to advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure that safeguards and enhances key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. The Program will conserve biodiversity and avoid potential adverse impacts by focusing on upstream policy, planning, design and financing measures that will trigger a system change downstream in how transportation infrastructure is sited, built and natural infrastructure maintained.

76. Examples of each of these components include: Enabling conditions: New or updated legal policy and regulatory frameworks; improved biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate data accessibility; updated or new guidelines; improved cross-sectoral coordination; changes to procurement procedures and incentives; and training and capacity building. Integrated planning and design: Implementing participatory planning platforms and protocols; integrated watershed/landscape/ seascape risk assessments of ecosystems, biodiversity, climate; spatial analysis and valuation of ecosystem services; mapping wildlife corridors. Financing and de-risking mechanisms: Guidance to support the development of nature-positive portfolios for investors

and lenders; capacity building and training for using integrated assessments to increase access to sustainable finance. A Global Coordination Project (Global Platform) will enhance learning and collaboration amongst the country projects, address global barriers and levers for change, and improve overall program-level coordination.

### ***Updates on Context of the Integrated Program***

77. Global policy trends suggest that approaches to developing and deploying *sustainable* infrastructure solutions are increasingly relevant to the delivery of global agreements, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and as currently highlighted in deliberations on climate and nature in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The outcomes of these agreements are influencing policies at national levels, as well as trends in the private sector. Investors, for example, have demonstrated an increased appreciation for environmental, social, and governance considerations across portfolios. This is evidenced by the recent launches of the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and Science Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), both designed to increase understanding of private sector impacts and reliance on nature and ecosystem services through disclosures and target setting. Multilateral development bank (MDB) joint statements at recent CBD and UNFCCC conferences of the parties (COPs) also make commitments to addressing not just climate change, but also nature-loss. Nevertheless, nature-related considerations—biodiversity loss, land degradation, water management, and ecosystem services deterioration—remain largely overlooked, undervalued, and poorly integrated into all facets of the infrastructure development lifecycle.

78. The GRID IP will work to mainstream biodiversity into transportation infrastructure from the earliest stages of its development where the potential to influence biodiversity and climate outcomes is greatest, contributing to numerous multilateral environment agreements, including: At least six of the 23 global targets (1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 15) set under the KMGBF; at least seven of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17) adopted by all members states of the United Nations; agreed actions toward achieving land degradation neutrality under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification; and UNFCCC ambitions for climate change mitigation and adaptation expressed through Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

### ***Summary and Status of Child Projects***

79. Global Coordination Project (Global Platform): will aim to enhance learning and collaboration amongst the country projects, address global barriers and levers for change, and improve overall program-level coordination. The Global Platform is organized around three primary components (in addition to cross-cutting Monitoring and Evaluation): (i) Technical Assistance and Knowledge Platform, (ii) Levers of Change and (iii) Program Coordination.

80. A knowledge platform will be established to serve as the central ecosystem for gathering, sharing, and disseminating knowledge. The knowledge platform will encompass a wide range of activities designed to support the transition toward nature-positive transportation

infrastructure, including the organization of webinars, workshops, conferences, and multistakeholder dialogues. Additionally, the knowledge platform will contain a knowledge hub, a digital space for information exchange, enabling stakeholders to access and apply the knowledge generated by the project.

81. Preparation of the Global Platform has been ongoing, meetings and workshops have taken place to support the preparation of the Global Platform CEO ER including with Implementing Agencies, representatives from Executing Agencies, and potential knowledge partners. This has included monthly meetings and a virtual design workshop with the participating Implementing Agencies; distribution of surveys to potential knowledge partners on areas for thematic collaboration (and two virtual informational sessions with potential knowledge partners); and a validation workshop with Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies on October 9, 2024. Additionally, a GRID-specific event was held at COP16 on October 29, 2024.

82. Meetings with Implementing Agencies, Executing Agencies, and the GEF Secretariat has helped guide the preparation of the Global Platform and has allowed discussion on updates, processes, and challenges of the country projects. All country child projects are on track and are expected to submit their CEO Endorsement Requests by February 2025.

83. The Lead Agency (WWF) expects to submit the CEO Endorsement Request (CEO ER) for the Global Coordination Project by the end of October 2024. To date, WWF has held recurring monthly meetings with consortium members (IAs), distributed surveys to potential knowledge partners on areas for thematic collaboration (and held two virtual informational sessions with potential knowledge partners) and conducted a validation workshop with Implementing Agencies on October 9, 2024. Consultations with the GEF Secretariat and Executing Agencies have also been held. Additionally, a GRID-specific event was held at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) on October 29, 2024.



*The GRID Integrated Program side event at GEF Pavilion at CBD COP-16, in Cali, Colombia, October 2024 featured all five country projects, was moderated by GEFSEC and included government, WWF, UNEP and ADB partners. Photo credit: WWF.*

## **E. Sustainable Cities Integrated Program**

### ***Program Summary***

84. The world's urban population is expected to grow by more than 50% in the next 30 years, predominantly in developing countries. This growth is catalyzed by cities boosting per capita GDP, spearheading innovation, and addressing development issues directly at the local level. However, the rapid pace and scale of urbanization in recent decades is leading to unsustainable land expansion and resource consumption which are accelerating climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and inequality, pushing planetary boundaries. This expansion risks natural habitats, reduces green spaces, increases climate vulnerability, and compromises the efficiency of urban services. Cities cause around 70% of global GHG emissions, and unchecked urban growth is accelerating biodiversity loss, with 463 cities located in or near 36 biological hotspots. Additionally, rapid urbanization exacerbates inequality, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and their access to urban services.

85. Given these challenges, cities have become pivotal in tackling the current triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and achieving the vision of Healthy Planet, Healthy People. Fragmented policy frameworks, lack of coordination among different sectors, limited flow of financing to cities for sustainability, inadequate institutional capacity and challenges related to multi-level coordination between national and city governments are affecting integrated and coherent action in cities to plan and implement sustainability solutions.

86. The GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (SCIP) aims to catalyze urban system transformation by supporting cities and local governments to scale up their political commitment, undertake integrated urban planning, implement policies, strengthen capacity, and invest in nature-positive, climate-resilient, and carbon-neutral urban development. The SCIP will generate impact at the local, national, and global levels and demonstrate thought-leadership in urban sustainability, fostering behavior, business models, and institutional changes through integrated planning, innovative financing mechanisms, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and multistakeholder engagements. In the GEF-8 phase, the program will directly support 20 countries as shown in figure 3 below.

87. The participating countries include two Small Island Developing States (Cuba, Belize) and two Least Developed Countries (Benin, Madagascar). The portfolio shows a strong focus on nature and urban biodiversity with biodiversity rich countries such as Gabon, Benin, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Kenya, and many others aiming to advance sustainable urbanization to meet their biodiversity goals and nature positive development.

88. The SCIP will directly contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation (UNFCCC) and sustainable management of land (UNCCD) and Target 12 of the Global Biodiversity Framework's under CBD to significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably. The IP's focus on circularity approaches is also anticipated to contribute to the reduction of plastic waste and hazardous chemicals.

**Figure 3. Map of countries participating in the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP**



### **Updates on Context of the Integrated Program**

89. Building on the momentum in recent years, the role of cities and subnational government has been further highlighted in the global conventions and fora. Following the dedicated target on cities established under the Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15, urbanization has gained prominence on the biodiversity COP agenda. Like previous COPs, ICLEI, a key partner of the GEF, as the representative of local governments' constituency organized a two-day Cities Summit during the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, in November 2024. During several events and panels, the GEF Secretariat and partners of the Sustainable Cities IP were involved in promoting the important role of cities in conserving biodiversity. Leading scientists, city leaders, high-level champions and the convention secretariat highlighted the importance of adopting integrated approaches in cities to tackle the triple challenges of climate change, nature loss and pollution and called for a greater multi-level engagement and partnership to meet 2030 goals. This reinforces the approach adopted by the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP.

90. Expanding on this development and considering the significant emphasis on urban biodiversity in the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP, the World Bank as the Lead Agency has launched the Urban Nature Program, which forms part of the nature component of GEF-8 SCIP. This program is a collaborative effort involving the World Bank, UNEP, ICLEI and other partners. It aims to support cities in planning and scaling up financing for urban biodiversity solutions. During the CBD COP16, the program hosted a [Mayors Forum](#) in which more than 20 city leaders from various regions highlighted their biodiversity and climate action and committed to integrate nature in urban planning, build green and blue infrastructure for ecological connectivity and avoid investments that will damage urban nature.



*First Meeting of Mayors Forum on Urban Nature and Biodiversity in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024.*

91. As the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization, the World Urban Forum (WUF-12) was organized in Cairo, Egypt, on November 4-8, 2024. The SCIP partnership engaged in the WUF effectively with the host UN-Habitat to advance integrated approaches for sustainable urban transformation. In several events and panel discussions, the GEF partnership shared lessons from the Sustainable Cities program, articulated priorities under the GEF-8 program period and gathered useful insights for future programming. The particular focus on integrated urban planning and integration of nature in cities was emphasized, and received interest from other urban actors and organizations. During WUF, the GEF Secretariat, World Bank (GEF-8 Lead Agency) and UNEP (GEF-7 lead agency) co-organized an event called ***Planning and Investing in Cities for Nature and Nature for Cities***, which convened cities, the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), global initiatives, and private sector entities to share experiences and ideas on integrating nature into urban planning, development, and investment practice with an aim to meet GBF targets. In two “One UN” events organized by UNEP with participation of the GEF Secretariat, the importance of investing in the nexus of climate, land and biodiversity at the urban scale was discussed which advanced the integrated approach followed by SCIP.

92. For the GEF Secretariat, WUF12 not only presented an opportunity to showcase its work on Sustainable Cities through events and dialogues, but also to learn about the latest global trends within sustainable urbanization. The theme for this year’s WUF was “It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities”, and amongst the important perspectives for action highlighted by several actors and organizations were multilevel governance, systems thinking in the urban realm, territorial spatial planning, urban-rural linkages, green and affordable housing, and urban resilience. These align with the integrated approach of the GEF-8 SCIP and insights from the forum will feed into the development and implementation of the GEF-8 SCIP, and inform future strategies and programming on urban development within the GEF.

93. The UNFCCC COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, also advanced the importance of local action to meet global climate goals. Building on the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships

(CHAMP) initiative which was signed by 72 countries after the UNFCCC COP-28 in Dubai in 2023, COP-29 launched another initiative entitled "Multi-Sectoral Action Pathways (MAP) for Sustainable, Climate Resilient and Healthy Cities," which reinforces that meeting the targets of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs require multilevel and multisectoral climate actions and collaboration and scaling up of urban climate finance.

### ***Summary and Status of Child Projects***

94. As an early step to support implementing agencies in the design of their country project, a virtual consultation meeting was organized in November 2023. During the meeting, agencies got the opportunity to present their projects and receive feedback from the GEF Secretariat, from the World Bank as the Lead Agency, and from external experts. The discussions also focused on how to estimate results for the GEF-8 core indicators within the specific context of the Sustainable Cities IP. Further, in March 2024 several child project countries and cities participated in the GEF-7 Sustainable Cities IP regional forum held in Belem where they learned from the experiences of the previous phase projects and participated in various training programs to develop effective projects.

95. Prior to the PFD approval in June 2024, many countries had already started working on their CEO endorsement packages to be ready to submit as early as possible. One child project in Belize, led by the World Bank, has already been CEO endorsed and is ready to move into implementation. The Global Coordination project team was closely involved in providing inputs to ensure that the Belize project was aligned with the PFD, even though the global coordination project is still to be endorsed.

96. The global coordination project and three country projects are expected to be submitted for CEO endorsement before the end of 2024, and the remaining 16 child projects are on track to be submitted by July 2025. As part of the project preparation and support to child projects, all GEF-8 countries will be invited to the GEF-7 Sustainable Cities IP's Regional Africa Forum that will be organized between 17-20 February 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya. The forum is organized by the GEF-7 Lead Agency UNEP, in collaboration with the global execution partners C40, ICLEI and WRI. The event will focus on green and resilient urban development on the African continent.

97. As the first major large convening of the GEF-8 SCIP, a global urban forum is planned for December 2025. At this point, all country projects are expected to be endorsed, and the forum will serve as a kickoff for full program implementation. In addition, a learning workshop is being planned in early 2025, bringing all the partners of GEF-6,7 and 8 phases along with experts to synthesize lessons and identify opportunities for future action.

## **F. Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program**

### ***Program Summary***

98. This update covers the addendum to the Integrated Program “Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes” CFB IP approved on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It adds the following three countries: Guinea Bissau and Togo in the Guinean biome and Guyana in the Amazon biome. With the addition of Guyana, all the eight sovereign countries of the Amazon are now participating in the Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program.

99. As for the other countries of the CFB IP, the Program support initiatives addressing both the urgent need to protect remaining primary forests and the necessity of developing sustainable practices to promote integrated and effective management of forest landscapes.

### ***Updates on Context of the Integrated Program***

100. To develop the interoperability, synergies, and consistency between the CFB IP regional platforms, the GEF organized an Expert Workshop on “Advancing the Integrated Approach for Transformative Change in Tropical Forest Biomes.” The workshop was co-hosted with Lead Agencies of the CFB IP at the Gamboa Forest Resort in Panama from October 7 to 10, and brought together 50 participants including recognized scientists, conservation experts, and the GEF partner Agencies leading the CFB IP programs.

101. The workshop served as the starting point for the CFB IP, GEF’s most significant commitment yet to forest conservation at the global scale, with \$307 million grant and \$1.7 billion of expected co-financing. This workshop was unique in both scale and scope to lay the foundation for the global platform coordinated by the GEF Secretariat. Through collaboration and shared resources, experts and GEF Agencies from different regions and specializations are now connected to support the implementation of the GEF’s Integrated Program and increase its impact.

102. The participants of the workshop discussed the definition and characterization of primary forests, reviewed the main threats to primary forests, and discussed potential solutions including the effective management of protected areas, the promotion of corridors and connectivity, stakeholder engagement, strengthening forest governance and policy coherence, sustainable finance, biodiversity or nature certificate etc. The participants had also the opportunity to discuss the connections between the CFB IP and the other related GEF IPs, namely: Wildlife Conservation for Development, Ecosystem Restoration, Food Systems, and Nature Positive Net Zero Accelerator. Finally, they also explored possible synergies and modalities of cooperation between the regional platforms of the CFB IP.

103. As a result of the workshop, working groups are being set up on specific key topics such as the global mapping of primary forests, empowerment of IPLCs, nature or biodiversity credits, and policy coherence. These working groups will provide critical information supporting the implementation of the Program. The GEF secretariat will further coordinate the efforts from the

GEF Agency Leads of the Regional Coordination Projects to develop their interoperability and synergies and ensure a coordinated approach during the implementation of the CFB IP beginning in 2025.



*Group photo of workshop participants in Panama in October 2024*

### ***Summary and Status of Child Projects***

104. CEO Endorsement requests have been received for all country child projects except those added later in February 2024. (see Annex 2). The Regional Coordination Projects for the Congo and Mesoamerica Biome Programs have been CEO Endorsed, while those for Amazon, Guinean Forests, and Indo-Malay are currently under review for technical clearance.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

105. With the approval of the June 2024 GEFTF work program, all 11 GEF-8 IPs have now been fully programmed. The GEF Secretariat will continue to work with all Lead Agencies and STAP to foster linkages between the coordination platforms for potentially amplifying influence of GEF investments globally. The global coverage of IPs creates an invaluable opportunity to strengthen the potential for knowledge exchange and learning, a priority to be addressed through the coordination platforms for each IP in line with the new GEF Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning.<sup>7</sup>

106. Together with STAP, the GEF Secretariat has drafted a set of principles to guide the interoperability of IP platforms based on a survey of existing platforms that was shared across the GEF partnership. The results of the survey gave important insights into the diverse ways in which the concept "platform" is being used by entities/organizations aiming to drive change in

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<sup>7</sup> [GEF/C.65/03/Rev.01 Global Environment Facility Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning](#)

specific environmental and developmental issues or problems. These results will also inform the practical work of enhancing interoperability of the IP platforms, as well as linkages with previous phases of GEF's integrated programs and other programs and initiatives.

## Annex 1. Full List of Countries Participating in Integrated Programs Approved in February and June 2024

<b>Food Systems (32)</b>	<b>Wildlife Conservation Development (15)</b>	<b>for Clean and Healthy Ocean (14)</b>	<b>Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development (5)</b>	<b>Sustainable Cities (20)</b>	<b>The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Addenda* (3)</b>	
Angola	Mexico	Colombia	Grenada	Malaysia	Algeria	<b>Amazon (1)</b> Guyana
Argentina	Namibia	Eswatini	Jordan	Nepal	Belize	
Benin	Nauru	Ethiopia	Madagascar	Philippines	Benin	<b>Guinean Forest (2)</b> Guinea-Bissau Togo
Bhutan	Nigeria	Guinea	Maldives	Suriname	Chile	
Burkina Faso	Pakistan	Indonesia	Mexico	Ukraine	China	
Chad	Peru	Kenya	Moldova		Congo	
Chile	Philippines	Malawi	Panama		Cuba	
China	Solomon Islands	Mexico	Peru		Gabon	
Costa Rica	South Africa	Mozambique	Sri Lanka		Guatemala	
Ecuador	Sri Lanka	Nepal	St. Kitts and		Kenya	
Eswatini	Türkiye	Paraguay	Nevis		Madagascar	
Ethiopia	Tanzania	Philippines	Thailand		Malaysia	
Ghana	Uganda	Thailand	Trinidad and		Mali	
Global		Uganda	Tobago		Mongolia	
Grenada		Zambia	Venezuela		Peru	
India			Viet Nam		Philippines	
Indonesia					Serbia	
Kazakhstan					South Africa	
Kenya					Sri Lanka	
Malaysia					Zimbabwe	

\* Guyana (Amazon) and Guinea-Bissau & Togo (Guinean Forest) were added to the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program at the 66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in February 2024.

## Annex 2. Detailed Summary and Status of Country Child Projects

### 1. Food Systems Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11216	Kenya	Integrated land and water management for food, water and climate security in the dairy food system,	IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress (validation)</li> <li>• Draft PRODOC received mid-October</li> <li>• Validation expected by mid-November</li> <li>• Submission expected by January 2025</li> </ul>
11217	Benin	Sustainable food systems for greater resilience and food & nutrition security in Benin	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultation process completed</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC received October 2024. Currently under review.</li> <li>• Validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11218	Costa Rica	Child Project Food Systems Integrated Programme	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by the end of February 2025.</li> </ul>
11219	Argentina	Sustainable Livestock in the forest region of the Argentine Parque Chaqueño through Forest Management with Integrated Livestock (MBGI)	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultation process completed</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected 30 November 2024</li> <li>• Validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11220	Chile	Scaling-up regenerative practices for the recovery and improvements of soils, biodiversity, and associated ecosystem services in the Chilean agricultural sector	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by the end of February 2025.</li> </ul>
11221	Peru	Regenerative livestock farming to promote sustainable landscapes	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by the end of February 2025.</li> </ul>
11222	Burkina Faso	Promoting Nature Positive Food Systems in Burkina Faso	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by the end of February 2025.</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11223	Bhutan	Productive and Sustainable Food Systems in Bhutan for Environmental Benefits and Gross National Happiness	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultation process completed</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC received October 2024. Currently under review.</li> <li>• Validation expected November 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected December 2024</li> </ul>
11224	Chad	Integrated production of rice and secondary crops using an agroecological approach in the Tandjilé province	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11225	China	Ecological and Low-Carbon Food Systems in China	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultation process completed</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC received October 2024. Currently under review.</li> <li>• Validation expected November 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected December 2024</li> </ul>
11226	Eswatini	Catalyzing transformation to sustainable food systems in Eswatini	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 30 November 2024. Submission expected by February 2025.</li> <li>• Final draft PRODOC expected by 15 January 2025.</li> </ul>
11227	South Africa	Catalyzing sustainable aquaculture systems for South Africa	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultation process completed</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC received in June 2024 and reviewed.</li> <li>• Validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11228	India	Transforming Andhra Pradesh aquaculture to a sustainable, reduced footprint and climate resilient food system	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11229	Indonesia	Sustainable Livestock Production to Support Resilient Food Systems, Environment and Rural Livelihoods in Indonesia	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected January 2025</li> <li>• Submission expected February 2025</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11230	Tanzania	Food Systems Transformation in Usangu Landscape	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected January 2025</li> <li>• Submission expected February 2025</li> </ul>
11231	Pakistan	Sustainable and regenerative management of rice production in Pakistan	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected January 2025</li> <li>• Submission expected February 2025</li> </ul>
11232	Solomon Islands	Revitalizing and transforming Solomon Islands' food system through sustainable agriculture and livestock production for enhanced environmental and community benefits.	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Validation workshop November 2024</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024 and reviewed in January 2024.</li> <li>• Submission expected by February 2025</li> </ul>
11233	Sri Lanka	Sustainable, regenerative and resilient rice-based food systems to strengthen community and ecosystem health in three river basins of Sri Lanka <sup>1</sup>	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected January 2025</li> <li>• Submission expected February 2025</li> </ul>
11234	Türkiye	Increasing the sustainability and resilience of agriculture/food system through nature-based solutions	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected 30 November 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11235	Ethiopia	Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation Programme	IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC draft received</li> <li>• Final consultations are ongoing. December 2024.</li> <li>• Validation expected by mid-November.</li> <li>• Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11236	Nigeria	Transformation to sustainable crops, livestock and aquaculture food systems in Nigeria	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected 30 November 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11237	Philippines	Transforming Agricultural Landscapes in Island Ecosystems and Key Biodiversity Areas towards Sustainable Food Systems and Climate Resilient Communities	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected January 2025</li> <li>• Submission expected February 2025</li> </ul>
11367	Malaysia	Sustainable Agriculture and Plantations in Peatland Landscapes in Malaysia (SAPPLIM)	IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception mission held in August</li> <li>• Challenge in defining institutional arrangements is slowing down the design process</li> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected early January 2025.</li> <li>• Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11368	Nauru	Transforming Nauru's Food Systems through Climate Smart Agriculture	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11369	Ecuador	Promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through regenerative and deforestation-free livestock in provinces of Manabí, Pichincha and Morona-Santiago.	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected 30 November 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11370	Angola	Sustainable aquaculture in the northern region of Angola	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected by 30 November 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11371	Namibia	Circular Integrated Aquaculture-Horticulture Systems for Climate Resilience in Namibia (NamiGreen)	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024.</li> <li>• Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11372	Mexico	Food systems, indigenous peoples and biodiversity	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected December 2024.</li> <li>• Review and validation expected January 2025</li> <li>• Submission expected February 2025</li> </ul>
11373	Kazakhstan	Transforming Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Kazakhstan to Ensure Environmental Sustainability	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress, consultations in process</li> <li>• Full draft PRODOC expected 30 November 2024.</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and validation expected December 2024</li> <li>• Submission expected January 2025</li> </ul>
11374	Grenada	Advancing Transformative Agricultural Systems in Grenada through the Promotion of Integrated and Resilient Ecosystem approaches throughout the cocoa value chain (ASPIRE)	IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First consultation ongoing</li> <li>• Validation workshop/missions took place 28th November-1st of December</li> <li>• Draft PRODOC expected by November 29th</li> <li>• Submission expected by January 2025.</li> </ul>
11375	Ghana	Ghana Sustainable Food System and Forest Management	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRODOC under preparation, first draft expected 31 December 2024. Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>
11376	Uganda	Promoting Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Livestock Value Chain in Uganda	IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation workshop took place in August 2024</li> <li>• First PRODOC draft expected November 15th, 2024.</li> <li>• Submission expected by February 2025.</li> </ul>

## 2. Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11163	Thailand	Recovering tiger population and landscape through the sustainable land use and ecosystem restoration	IUCN	• Submission expected by February 2025
11162	Philippines	Investing in Wildlife Conservation through Enforcement, Livelihoods and Tourism (WildINVEST)	ADB	• Submission expected by February 2025
11161	Colombia	The Jaguar Corridor	UNDP	• Submission expected by February 2025
11160	Indonesia	Law Enforcement for Sustainable Viable Ecosystems and Biodiversity Resilience through Multi Sectors Engagement (LEVERAGE)	UNDP	• Submission expected by February 2025
11159	Uganda	Kidepo Landscape Integrated Conservation and Development Project (KLICDP)	UNEP	• Submission expected by February 2025
11158	Paraguay	Conserving the Paraguayan Chaco for the benefit of jaguars and for people	CI	• Submission expected by February 2025
11157	Nepal	Managing the Human Tiger Interface In Nepal	WWF-US	• Expecting delays
11156	Mexico	From conflict to coexistence, safeguarding wildlife corridors in Mexico for sustainable development	WWF-US	• Submission expected by February 2025
11155	Guinea	Protection of wildlife in the Folonigbè reserve through participatory and integrated management	UNDP	• Submission expected by February 2025
11154	Zambia	Securing the species, habitat, health, and livelihoods of the Lower Kafue Ecosystem	WWF-US	• Submission expected by February 2025
11153	Kenya	Advancing human-wildlife conflict management effectiveness in Kenya through an integrated approach	CI	• Submission expected by February 2025
11152	Ethiopia	Promoting Integrated Conservation of Wildlife and Landscapes for Sustainable Development of Ethiopia	UNDP	• Submission expected by February 2025
11151	Eswatini	Establishment of Big 5 Nature Reserve	UNDP	• Submission expected by February 2025
11150	Mozambique	Transforming wildlife conservation and livelihoods at the landscape scale in Mozambique (TRANSFORM)	UNDP	• Expecting delays due to delays in project preparation • Submission expected by April 2025
11149	Malawi	Central Region Protected Areas and Landscapes Project	World Bank	• Expecting delays

### 3. Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11364	Madagascar	Green, blue and healthy investments to reduce land-based pollution affecting marine ecosystems in Madagascar	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 16 July 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 27 November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 9 February 2025</li> </ul>
11363	Trinidad and Tobago	Rehabilitation of the Beetham Wastewater Stabilization Ponds (WSP) (Trinidad and Tobago)	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 8 August 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 11 October 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 20 December 2024</li> </ul>
11362	Peru	Nature based solutions to reduce coastal pollution in Peru	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 19 July 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 11-12 November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 9 February 2025</li> </ul>
11361	Moldova	BBSEA Moldova WATERWISE (Wetlands and Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration for Watershed Improvements and Sustainable Environments)	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 14 May 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 7 November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 20 November 2024</li> </ul>
11360	Mexico	Forging Partnerships for the Ocean: Reducing Water Pollution in Mexico through Sustainable Solutions	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 21 August 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: TBD</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 9 February 2025</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11359	Thailand	Seeding a Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 30 May 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 1-2 October 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: February 2025</li> </ul>
11358	Grenada	Improving Waste Management and Public Awareness for a Clean and Healthy Ocean (Grenada)	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 17 June 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 11-12 December 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: January 2025</li> </ul>
11357	Maldives	Sustainable Nitrogen Management for a Clean & Healthy Ocean: Maldives as a SIDS regional catalyst	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 22 July 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 26 November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 9 February 2025</li> </ul>
11356	Panama	Reducing coastal pollution in the Parita Bay in Panama	IADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 29 July - 2 August 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: TBD</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 9 February 2025</li> </ul>
11355	St. Kitts and Nevis	Building a Blue-Green Economy in St. Kitts and Nevis	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 17 June 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 20-21 November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: January 2025</li> </ul>
11354	Jordan	Addressing marine hypoxia in the Gulf of Aqaba by reducing land-based sources of pollution in Jordan	EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 15 November 2024 (tentative)</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: 15 December 2024 (tentative)</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: January 2025</li> </ul>

<b>GEF ID</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Status</b>
11352	Sri Lanka	Addressing marine hypoxia in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem by reducing land-based agricultural pollution in the north-west of Sri Lanka	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 10 May 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting/Multi stakeholder workshop: 4 December 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: February 2025</li> </ul>
11351	Venezuela	Conservation and sustainable development of the Maracaibo Lake basin as a contribution to the improvement of the large marine ecosystem of the Caribbean (Venezuela)	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 9-10 July 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: second week of December 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: January 2025</li> </ul>
11350	Viet Nam	Enhancing water management and compliance to address hypoxia caused by nutrients, and other pollutants, into the Gulf of Tonkin (Vietnam)	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Inception Meeting: 7 May 2024</li> <li>• Validation Meeting: tentatively planned 18 December 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request expected to be submitted by: 9 February 2025</li> </ul>

#### 4. Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11472	Suriname	Preserving Suriname's Immense Marine and Coastal Biodiversity through Greening Infrastructure Development	WWF-US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception workshop and Stakeholder consultation workshop was held, validation workshop planned for November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement to be submitted by November 30, 2024</li> </ul>
11471	Philippines	Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development in the Philippines (GRID-PHI)	WWF-US,ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial meetings have been held, and field work is anticipated for November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement to be submitted by February 2025</li> </ul>
11470	Nepal	Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development in Nepal: Terai Arc Landscape Case	ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial meetings have been held, and field work is anticipated for November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement to be submitted by February 2025</li> </ul>
11469	Malaysia	Transforming Malaysia's Port Infrastructure Development through a Nature-Centric Approach for Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Control	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International consultants are hired</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement to be submitted by February 2025</li> </ul>
11468	Ukraine	Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Upstream Planning of Linear Transport Infrastructure in Ukraine	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception workshop took place in May 2024 and donor coordination meeting took place in July 2024, validation workshop is planned for November 2024</li> <li>• International and national experts have been hired</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement to be submitted by November 30, 2024</li> </ul>

## 5. Sustainable Cities Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11288	Belize	Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Program	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted for CEO endorsement in July 2024</li> <li>CEO endorsed in November 2024</li> </ul>
11289	Benin	The Greater Nokoue Greening Program (GNGP)	BOAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG in progress</li> <li>Validation workshop being held in January 2025</li> <li>To be submitted for CEO endorsement by January 2025</li> </ul>
11290	Sri Lanka	Climate Smart Sustainable Cities	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG phase kick-off mission and consultations held between July 29 -August 02, 2024</li> <li>Next PPG mission planned in end Nov 2024</li> <li>Validation workshop to be held in April 2025</li> <li>To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11291	Cuba	A Sustainable, Green, Blue, and Digital Havana	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG in progress (Hiring consulting team)</li> <li>PPG Inception workshop: November 2024</li> <li>Validation workshop being held on second half of March 2025</li> <li>To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11292	Gabon	Integrated governance and urban transformation for a sustainable “Grand Libreville”	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Firm to conduct PPG under recruitment. Estimated kick off date: October 28, 2024</li> <li>PPG Inception mission: November/December 2024</li> <li>To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11293	Guatemala	Towards resilient cities in Guatemala: addressing biodiversity loss and recovery through integrated urban planning and development	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG company hired (Oct 18th, 2024)</li> <li>Inception workshops with logical framework and activities validation will be held on between December 2024/ 15 January 2025</li> <li>Validation workshop being held on May 15, 2025</li> <li>To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2024 / July 2025</li> </ul>
11294	South Africa	The South African Sustainable Cities Planning and Decarbonisation Integrated Programme	DBSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG in progress</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement and validation process undertaken</li> <li>To submit for CEO endorsement in May 2025</li> </ul>
11296	Kenya	Supporting the shift towards Integrated, Low-Carbon and	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenya requested UN-Habitat to act as the Executing Agency for the project</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
		Nature-Positive Neighborhoods in Nairobi		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG experts / consultants currently being hired by UN-Habitat</li> <li>• Scoping mission and 1st consultation workshops will likely be organized in November 2024</li> <li>• Validation workshop will likely be organized end of March / early April 2025</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request document planned to be submitted to the GEF by June 2025</li> </ul>
11297	Mongolia	Green and Inclusive Cities in Mongolia	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• PPG Team Lead procurement is nearing completion</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11298	Peru	Promoting Nature Positive, resilient and inclusive cities in Lima-Callao, Huancayo and Ica	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG company in process to be hired (November 1st, 2024)</li> <li>• Inception workshops with logical framework and activities validation will be held on 15 -30 January 2025.</li> <li>• Validation workshop being held on June 1st, 2024</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement by July – August 2025</li> </ul>
11299	Philippines	Green and Resilient Cities	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG Team onboarding by November 2024</li> <li>• PPG Inception Workshop is planned for December 2024</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11301	Serbia	Green cities transformation – smart, sustainable and low-carbon urban solutions in triangular metropolitan area	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Validation workshop scheduled for October 21, 2024</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement in December 2024</li> </ul>
11307	Congo	Strengthening Urban Resilience and Electricity Services	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement by December 2024</li> </ul>
11339	Chile	Enhancing Nature-based Solutions and Green Infrastructure networks to promote biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• PPG Inception workshop to be held on November 2024</li> <li>• PPG field missions: November-December 2024</li> <li>• Validation workshop being held on March 2025</li> <li>• Project timeline for Child project submission: June 2025</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
		adaptation in urban and peri-urban areas in Chile		
11340	Mali	Integrated urban development in Bamako	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Validation workshop being held on February 2025</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11341	Madagascar	Establishing the basis for clean, healthy and resilient cities through an integrated and smart approach in Madagascar	UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• September 2024: Stakeholders online consultation</li> <li>• HACT assessment from 2022 under review</li> <li>• PPG Mission: November 2024</li> <li>• PPG Inception workshop: December 2024</li> <li>• Validation workshop: March 2025</li> <li>• To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2025</li> </ul>
11342	China	The Sustainable City Project for Coordinated Development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region	UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• HACT assessments have been completed for the two national executing agencies.</li> <li>• PPG Inception meeting was organized on September 26, 2024</li> <li>• The stakeholder engagement plan was drafted. On September 23-25, 2024, three consultation workshops were organized with the public, private sector, academic institutions, industrial associations and others</li> <li>• Field visits were conducted in Shijiazhuang, Tianjin and Beijing cities</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by the end of December 2024</li> </ul>
11343	Malaysia	Decarbonisation and sustainable cities for a net-zero future in Malaysia	UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• Contractual arrangement with the national execution entity (MIGHT) is currently underway and will provide support services for consultation meetings and workshops</li> <li>• Tentatively inception workshop planned for November 2024</li> <li>• Estimated timeframe for initial CEO endorsement submission is June 2025</li> </ul>
11344	Zimbabwe	UPRISE Zimbabwe: Urban and Peri-urban Resilience through	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG in progress</li> <li>• PPG Mission: August 31 - September 9, 2024</li> </ul>

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
		Investment for Sustainable Ecosystems in Zimbabwe		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG Inception Workshop (Harare): September 4, 2024</li> <li>• PPG Inception Workshop (Bulawayo): October 1, 2024</li> <li>• Key Project Sections: Project results framework, intervention strategy, and Theory of Change are under definition and pending validation.</li> <li>• Ongoing Activities: Identification of Operational Partners and implementation arrangements.</li> <li>• Validation Workshop: To be organized by October 15, 2024.</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement: Planned submission by January 2025.</li> </ul>
11345	Algeria	Reshaping Algeria's Cities for a Clean and Healthy Environment Today and Tomorrow (REACT)	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG inception workshop and mission planned 2-8 November 2024</li> <li>• Final validation meeting and prodoc to be submitted for CEO endorsement by May/ June 2025</li> </ul>

## 6. Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program (Addenda)

### *Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program*

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11393	Guinea-Bissau	Promoting and Strengthening Restoration and Conservation of Cantanhez Primary Forests in Guinea Bissau	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary stakeholder mapping, baseline study and theory of change development is completed</li> <li>• Inception workshop, field mission including stakeholder consultations are scheduled in November 2024</li> <li>• Validation workshop will take place in December 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement is expected to be submitted December 2024</li> </ul>
11392	Togo	Strengthening conservation and resilience of forest landscapes in the sub-humid mountainous zone of Togo	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception mission and field work is completed in June and July 2024</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultation workshop and validation workshop scheduled in November 2024 and December 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement is expected to be submitted December 2024</li> </ul>

### *Guinean Forest Critical Forest Biome*

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11338	Guyana	Advancing Guyana's Development through Improved Forest Management	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception workshop conducted in July 2024 and validation workshop is scheduled in November 2024</li> <li>• CEO Endorsement is expected January 2025</li> </ul>